

In The Claims

Please cancel claim 8, without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A pad for improving a geosynthetically reinforced segmental retaining wall system, the pad comprising:

(a resilient material) for being disposed between block layers in a segmental retaining wall, (the pad) for transferring tensile load from a geosynthetic soil reinforcing material to the (segmental retaining wall) block face.

2. (Original) The pad of claim 1, wherein the resilient material is shaped to substantially match the shape of the horizontal surface of the blocks.

AI 3. (Amended) The pad of claim 1, wherein the resilient material ~~comprises~~ consists of one or more of the following:

polyvinyl chloride (PVC);

a needlepunched nonwoven geotextile; or

a polymeric foam applied to a scrim.

4. (Original) A pad for reinforcing a segmental retaining wall, the pad comprising:

a resilient material that has a thickness sufficient to substantially fill voids

and uneven surfaces between adjacent horizontal surfaces of retaining

blocks.

5. (Amended) A block pad that is composed of a planar material ~~comprising~~ consisting of:

a polymeric ~~material either membrane-like~~ geomembrane, ~~or constructed as in a~~
nonwoven needlepunched product, or a scrim with foam covering.

6. (Original) A pad for insertion ~~into the space~~ between courses of segmental block wall to fit the block shape and that provides a frictional connection between a soil reinforcing geosynthetic and the wall.

7. (Original) A pad that provides an interlayer of dissimilar material to the concrete block that reduces cracking of the blocks once installed because of its thickness and compressibility.

AI 8. (Canceled) A product that improves the system efficiency of the block/geosynthetic combination, causing less soil reinforcement to be needed, or lower strength soil reinforcement to be used.

9. (New) A geosynthetically reinforced segmental retaining wall system, comprising:

a plurality of stacked blocks;

a geosynthetic soil reinforcing material disposed between adjoining stacked blocks; and

a pad comprising a resilient material for being disposed between the stacked blocks,

the pad for transferring tensile load from the geosynthetic soil reinforcing material to the segmental retaining wall.

10. (New) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the resilient material is shaped to substantially match the shape of a horizontal surface of the blocks.

11. (New) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the resilient material consists of one or more of the following:

polyvinyl chloride (PVC);

a needlepunched nonwoven geotextile; or

a polymeric foam applied to a scrim.

12. (New) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad comprises:

a resilient material that has a thickness sufficient to substantially fill voids

and uneven surfaces between adjacent horizontal surfaces of retaining

blocks.

13. (New) The wall system of claim 9 wherein the pad is made of a material consisting

of:

a polymeric geomembrane, or a nonwoven needlepunched product, or a scrim with foam covering.

14. (New) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad for insertion between the stacked blocks is shaped to fit the block shape and provides a frictional connection between a soil reinforcing geosynthetic and the wall.

15. (New) The wall system of claim 9, wherein the pad provides an interlayer of dissimilar material to the concrete block that reduces cracking of the blocks once installed because of its thickness and compressibility.
